WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image processing apparatus which is equipped with plural card slots in which detachable cards are respectively inserted, comprising:

an operation panel including an operation unit and a display unit;

accessible card slot setting means for setting one of said plural card slots as an accessible card slot by using said operation unit and said display unit; and

card control means for, in case of accessing the cards inserted in said plural card slots, accessing the card inserted in the accessible card slot set by said accessible card slot setting means.

2. An image processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein, when a power supply for the entirety of said image processing apparatus is turned off, the accessible card slot set by said accessible card slot setting means is changed to be unavailable.

3. An image processing apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising:

main control means for controlling the entirety of said image processing apparatus; and

card detection means for judging whether or not the cards have been inserted respectively in said

plural card slots, in accordance with a command inquiry to said card control means.

4. An image processing apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein said main control means judges whether or not the cards have been inserted respectively in said plural card slots, in accordance with a signal from card reading/writing means.

5. An image processing apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein, when the power supply for the entirety of said image processing apparatus is turned on in a state that the cards are not inserted in all of said plural card slots, said accessible card slot setting means thereafter sets, as the accessible card slot, the card slot in which the card is first inserted.

6. An image processing apparatus according to Claim 2, further comprising card slot determination means for, when the power supply for the entirety of said image processing apparatus is turned on in a state that the plural cards have been inserted in said plural card slots, determining the accessible card slot according to predetermined order of priority.

7. An image processing apparatus according to Claim 2, further comprising card slot determination means for, when the power supply for the entirety of said image processing apparatus is turned on in a state that the plural cards have been inserted in said plural card slots, determining the accessible card slot according to order of priority previously set by an operator.

8. An image processing apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein, when the power supply for the entirety of said image processing apparatus is turned on in a state that the plural cards have been inserted in said plural card slots, said accessible card slot setting means sets, as the accessible card slot, the card slot which was set as the accessible card slot last time.

9. A control method for an image processing apparatus which is equipped with plural card slots in which detachable cards are respectively inserted, said method comprising:
        an accessible card slot setting step of setting one of the plural card slots as an accessible card slot by using an operation unit and a display unit provided on an operation panel; and
        a card control step of, in case of accessing

the cards inserted in the plural card slots,
accessing the card inserted in the accessible card
slot set in said accessible card slot setting step.

5   10. A control method according to Claim 9,
wherein, when a power supply for the entire image
processing apparatus is turned off, the accessible
card slot set in said accessible card slot setting
step is changed to be unavailable.

10

   11. A control method according to Claim 9,
further comprising:

   a main control step of controlling the entire
image processing apparatus; and

15   a card detection step of judging whether or not
the cards have been inserted respectively in the
plural card slots, in accordance with a command
inquiry issued in said card control step.

20   12. A control method according to Claim 11,
wherein said main control step judges whether or not
the cards have been inserted respectively in the
plural card slots, in accordance with a signal
generated in a card reading/writing step.

25

   13. A control method according to Claim 10,
wherein, when the power supply for the entire image

processing apparatus is turned on in a state that the cards are not inserted in all of the plural card slots, said accessible card slot setting step thereafter sets, as the accessible card slot, the

5    card slot in which the card is first inserted.


14. A control method according to Claim 10, further comprising a card slot determination step of, when the power supply for the entire image processing

10    apparatus is turned on in a state that the plural cards have been inserted in the plural card slots, determining the accessible card slot according to predetermined order of priority.


15    15. A control method according to Claim 10, further comprising a card slot determination step of, when the power supply for the entire image processing apparatus is turned on in a state that the plural cards have been inserted in the plural card slots,

20    determining the accessible card slot according to order of priority previously set by an operator.


16. A control method according to Claim 10, wherein, when the power supply for the entire image

25    processing apparatus is turned on in a state that the plural cards have been inserted in the plural card slots, said accessible card slot setting step sets,

as the accessible card slot, the card slot which was
set as the accessible card slot last time.

17. A program for causing an image processing
apparatus, which is equipped with plural card slots
in which detachable cards are respectively inserted,
to execute:

an accessible card slot setting procedure of
setting one of the plural card slots as an accessible
card slot by using an operation unit and a display
unit provided on an operation panel, and storing the
set accessible card slot in a predetermined memory;
and

a card control procedure of, in case of
accessing the cards inserted in the plural card slots,
accessing the card inserted in the accessible card
slot set in said accessible card slot setting
procedure.

18. A program according to Claim 17, wherein,
when a power supply for the entire image processing
apparatus is turned off, the accessible card slot set
in said accessible card slot setting procedure is
changed to be unavailable.

19. A program according to Claim 17, further
comprising:

a main control procedure of controlling the entire image processing apparatus; and

a card detection procedure of judging whether or not the cards have been inserted respectively in

5   the plural card slots, in accordance with a command inquiry issued in said card control procedure, and storing the judged result in the predetermined memory.

20. A program according to Claim 19, wherein

10  said main control procedure judges whether or not the cards have been inserted respectively in the plural card slots, in accordance with a signal generated in a card reading/writing procedure, and stores the judged result in the predetermined memory.

15

21. A program according to Claim 18, wherein, when the power supply for the entire image processing apparatus is turned on in a state that the cards are not inserted in all of the plural card slots, said

20  accessible card slot setting procedure thereafter sets, as the accessible card slot, the card slot in which the card is first inserted, and stores the set accessible card slot in the predetermined memory.

25  22. A program according to Claim 18, further comprising a card slot determination procedure of, when the power supply for the entire image processing

apparatus is turned on in a state that the plural

cards have been inserted in the plural card slots,

determining the accessible card slot according to

predetermined order of priority, and storing the

5    determined accessible card slot in the predetermined

memory.


23.  A program according to Claim 18, further

comprising a card slot determination procedure of,

10   when the power supply for the entire image processing

apparatus is turned on in a state that the plural

cards have been inserted in the plural card slots,

determining the accessible card slot according to

order of priority previously set by an operator, and

15   storing the determined accessible card slot in the

predetermined memory.


24.  A program according to Claim 18, wherein,

when the power supply for the entire image processing

20   apparatus is turned on in a state that the plural

cards have been inserted in the plural card slots,

said accessible card slot setting procedure sets, as

the accessible card slot, the card slot which was set

as the accessible card slot last time, and stores the

25   set accessible card slot in the predetermined memory.


25.  A recording apparatus comprising:

a card reader including an external interface,
plural connection units in which plural kinds of
external storage cards are inserted and which
respectively correspond to said plural kinds of
5   external storage cards, and a card access exclusive
control unit which performs control to transfer data
of the external storage card inserted in selected one
of said plural kinds of connection units to said
external interface or transfer data from said
10   external interface to said external storage card
inserted in said selected one connection unit;
        connection means for connecting with said
external interface;
        data reading means for reading the data of the
15   external storage card from said card reader through
said connection means; and
        recording means for recording the data read by
said reading means.


20   26. A recording apparatus according to Claim 25,
further comprising:
        connection means for connecting with an
external information processing apparatus; and
        control means for performing control to be able
25   to access said external storage card through said
connection means connecting with said external
information processing apparatus.

27. A recording apparatus comprising:

a card reader including plural connection units in which plural kinds of external storage cards are inserted and which respectively correspond to said

5  plural kinds of external storage cards, detection means for detecting respectively that said plural kinds of external storage cards have been inserted in said respective connection units and then outputting detection signals indicating respective detected

10  results, and a power supply changeover circuit for supplying power for the external storage card to only one of said plural connection units on the basis of the respective detection signals;

connection means for connecting with said card

15  reader;

data reading means for reading data of the external storage card from said card reader through said connection means; and

recording means for recording the data read by

20  said reading means.


28. A control method for a recording apparatus which includes a card reader having an external interface and plural connection units in which plural

25  kinds of external storage cards are inserted and which respectively correspond to the plural kinds of external storage cards, a connection means for

connecting with the external interface, a data

reading means for reading data of the external

storage card from the card reader through the

connection means, and a recording means for recording

5    the data read by the reading means, said method

comprising:

a control step of causing a card access

exclusive control unit to perform control so as to

transfer the data of the external storage card

10   inserted in selected one of the plural kinds of

connection units to the external interface or

transfer data from the external interface to the

external storage card inserted in the selected one

connection unit.

15

29.   A control method according to Claim 28,

further comprising a control step of performing

control to be able to access the external storage

card through a connection means connecting with an

20   external information processing apparatus.

30.   A control method for a recording apparatus

which comprises a card reader including plural

connection units in which plural kinds of external

25   storage cards are inserted and which respectively

correspond to the plural kinds of external storage

cards, a connection means for connecting with the

card reader, a data reading means for reading data of
the external storage card from the card reader
through the connection means, and a recording means
for recording the data read by the reading means,
5    said method comprising:

a detection step of detecting respectively that
the plural kinds of external storage cards have been
inserted in the respective connection units, and
outputting detection signals indicating respective
10    detected results; and

a power supply changeover step of supplying
power for the external storage card to only one of
the plural connection units on the basis of the
respective detection signals.

15

31. A program for causing a recording apparatus
which includes a card reader having an external
interface and plural connection units in which plural
kinds of external storage cards are inserted and
20    which respectively correspond to the plural kinds of
external storage cards, a connection means for
connecting with the external interface, a data
reading means for reading data of the external
storage card from the card reader through the
25    connection means, and a recording means for recording
the data read by the reading means, to execute:

a control procedure of causing a card access

exclusive control unit to perform control so as to transfer the data of the external storage card inserted in selected one of the plural kinds of connection units to the external interface or
5    transfer data from the external interface to the external storage card inserted in the selected one connection unit.

    32. A program according to Claim 31, further
10    comprising a control procedure of performing control to be able to access the external storage card through a connection means connecting with an external information processing apparatus.

15    33. A program for causing a recording apparatus which comprises a card reader including plural connection units in which plural kinds of external storage cards are inserted and which respectively correspond to the plural kinds of external storage
20    cards, a connection means for connecting with the card reader, a data reading means for reading data of the external storage card from the card reader through the connection means, and a recording means for recording the data read by the reading means, to
25    execute:

    a detection procedure of detecting respectively that the plural kinds of external storage cards have

been inserted in the respective connection units, and outputting detection signals indicating respective detected results; and

    a power supply changeover procedure of causing

5  a power supply changeover circuit to supply power for the external storage card to only one of the plural connection units on the basis of the respective detection signals.